

Serving the Air Reserve Component

ARP UPDATE



HQ Air Reserve Personnel Center, Denver

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One Air Force, Same Fight -- An Unrivalled Wingman

Names and Faces



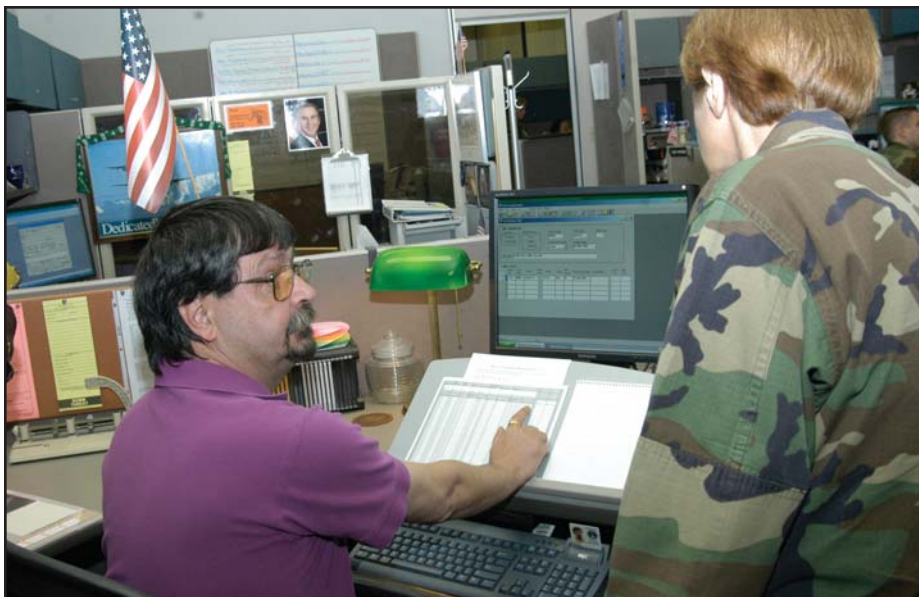
**Tech. Sgt.
Stephanie Carter**

Personnel Readiness Center

With each issue, the Air Reserve Personnel Center would like to introduce the members of the ARPC Team who serve our customers every day.

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Ralph Carson explains to Col. Ann Shippy how the MobFiller program automatically selects people for taskings. Mr. Carson works in ARPC's Personnel Readiness Center, and Colonel Shippy is ARPC's commander.

Program automatically fills mobilization requirements

**Story and photo by
Tech. Sgt. J.C. Woodring**

Air Reserve Personnel Center Public Affairs

To fill the 300-plus positions for the Defense Department-required exercise 'Push-Pull 2007,' Air Reserve Personnel Center officials used a new computer program to select Individual Ready Reserve Airmen to participate.

The Mob-filler program has been in development for more than four years, but this was its first live test.

"We type in the grade and skill level of the number of people we need to participate, and the system pulls them for us," said Ralph Carson, of

ARPC's Personnel Readiness Center.

Before, Mr. Carson said that he and the Airmen who work with him would have to manually search the personnel database to pick the people for the tasking.

"This saves us tons of time," he said.

If the computer search doesn't initially find the exact number of people in the grade or skill level required, it automatically searches for one up or down until all positions are filled, Mr. Carson said.

Push-Pull is an end-to-end test of key mobilization processes and systems.



<http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/VPC-GR>
or call 800-525-0102

Establish your account today!

ARPC stands by on UTA weekends

By Mike Molina

Air Reserve Personnel Center Public Affairs

For more than a year now, Airmen at the Air Reserve Personnel Center have been manning phones on the first weekend of each month to support Guard and Reserve Airmen who are performing their monthly military training.

“(Unit Training Assembly weekends) are another opportunity when our Guard and Reserve customers can get in touch with us if they have questions or other requests,” said Master Sgt. Andrew Hunt, ARPC contact center superintendent.

While Reserve and Guard Airmen can call during the week or log onto the virtual Personnel Center -- Guard and Reserve anytime, the contact center is open from

7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. They can check the status of their online retirement applications and award packages, verify retirement points, request documents and complete other information requests.

“It’s just like a regular duty day,” said Staff Sgt. Craig Kramer, NCO in charge of Work Flow Management. “It just gives them the convenience that they can call on their duty time.”

ARPC began supporting UTA weekends April 1, 2006. Typically, the contact center is open on the first Saturday and Sunday of every month to as many as 176 drilling Guard and Reserve units nationwide.

“Our contact center needs to mirror the drilling reservists. So, we’re here -- in touch,” said Dave Aldrich, director of Personnel Services.

Verifying points ensures credit goes to current year

By Sue Deardorff

*Air Reserve Personnel Center
Personnel Programs Directorate*

After Reserve Airmen have performed active or inactive duty and have been paid, the points earned will automatically update to the current retention/retirement year.

Airmen who submit for pay late (months or even years after the duty was performed) and the duty days fall within a previous retention/retirement year, the points will have to be adjusted to your record. **This process is not automatic.**

Since adjusting late points is not an automatic process, they may be lost. Lost points may result in an unsatisfactory service year until the record is corrected.

To correct the record, Airmen need to mail or fax ARPC’s Points Management Branch a copy of the leave

and earnings statement showing pay for the active or inactive duty.

By submitting forms on time, Airmen will save themselves the pain, worry and hassle of having their record show they are not participating and then having to correct it later.

Nonpay points

After Airmen perform active or inactive duty for points only, they submit the form to their MPF if assigned to a unit or to the Points Management Branch if an individual mobilization augmentee. Again, **this is not an automatic process.**

Submitting these forms late may lead to a year of unsatisfactory service. Please be aware, when the Points Management Branch receives late forms, they usually verify the dates of duty with the unit or Program Manager’s office.

By submitting the records on

time, Airmen are saved the aggravation of having their record show they are not participating and then having to correct the record.

Verifying points online

After completing duty and submitting the paperwork, Airmen can verify their points online through the virtual military personnel flight at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/vs/.

The date of participation, type of duty and amount of points will be posted to the current retention/retirement year.

Nonpay active or inactive duty points normally take about two weeks to post to the site because it has to be manually updated.

If there is still a problem with the record, Airmen should call their MPF or supervisor. Chances are they can help locate the form and/or problem and move it on its way.

Air Reserve Personnel

UPDATE

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ARPC offers hot tips to advance officers' careers

By Capt. Susan Murphy

*Air Reserve Personnel Center
Promotion Board Secretariat*

As the Air Force slashes 40,000 Airmen from its books to fund aircraft modernization, officers scramble to be retained and promoted.

A successful career requires many components, often referred to as the whole-person concept. It requires solid performance, demonstrating leadership, performing collateral duties, participating in deployment rotations, and continuing education.

In the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard, officers document these accomplishments on their officer selection record, available on the virtual military personnel flight and the virtual Personnel Center – Guard and Reserve.

Air Reserve Personnel Center's Promotion Board Secretariat compiled the following suggestions to help Reserve officers keep their records current and advance their careers.

► Officers should ensure their performance reports and decorations are filed in the officer selection record. The existence of these documents

in the vMPF and military personnel data system does not guarantee they are also in the selection record.

► Officers should check their military personnel files every six months. They have access to their records review rip and their data verification brief on vMPF under "Personal Information."

► Airmen meeting a board should receive officer preselection briefs about four months before the board. The brief is sent to the Airman's servicing MPF, which then distributes it to the Airman.

► Officers should review their preselection brief immediately upon receipt for any errors or missing information. It is the Airman's responsibility to ensure the brief's accuracy. The selection brief is printed three days before the board convenes. If all corrections are completed, the selection brief should mirror the preselection brief.

► Units can send an authorized representative to ARPC to take an inventory of records of officers in their unit who are projected to meet a board in the upcoming year.

► Second lieutenants through lieu-

tenant colonels can gain unique insight to the promotion process by volunteering as a promotion board administrative assistant. For volunteer information, visit <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/promotions> and click on "Information Links."

► The ARPC Web site promotion page at <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/promotions> has a wealth of information. Officers eligible for promotion can gain knowledge from the frequently asked questions section, eligibility tables and ARPC messages. "The Guard and Reserve Personnel Fact Sheets" can also be useful.

► Officers are encouraged to periodically review Air Force Instruction 36-2504, Officer Promotion, Continuation and Selective Early Removal in the Reserve of the Air Force, to understand the board process and eligibility requirements as well as the various types of promotion boards.

► Airmen may call the Reserve Personnel Contact Center at 800-525-0102 to request a copy of their Officer Selection Record before meeting a board. Please allow a minimum of 30 days for processing the request.

The most successful officers ...

- ☑ Have received a decoration within the last three years.
- ☑ Ensure academic education is updated with Air Force Institute of Technology.
- ☑ Have developmental education commensurate with rank.
- ☑ Have applicable prior-service documents in records.
- ☑ Ensure duty history is correct.
- ☑ Update deployment data if deployed for more than 45 days after Sept. 11, 2001.
- ☑ Make sure flying data is correct.
- ☑ Keep participation points correct.
- ☑ Write a letter to the board if something needs further explanation.

Issues for family life insurance payments identified

Reservists need to keep their personal information up-to-date in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility System and the Military Personnel Data Systems or they may risk unnecessary debt collection for their Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage.

DOD officials identified marital data mismatches between DEERS and MilPDS in September and requested all reservists be notified of possible errors that could affect their coverage. ARPC sent letters to affected Airmen then, and again in April, advising them of the issue. The letters identified them as being "married" in one system but not in the other.

Unfortunately, these systems do not interface with one another; so Airmen must ensure information in both systems reflect the correct data. Some Airmen may not

be charged or erroneously charged for coverage.

So far, only 12 percent of the 8,100 identified Airmen have taken action and 109 letters were returned because of incorrect addresses.

At this time, ARPC cannot make corrections in DEERS nor can MPFs update MilPDS. Resolution of this issue is a joint effort -- unit assigned Airmen must contact their commander's support staffs to correct errors in MilPDS, while IMAs should contact the Reserve Personnel Contact Center at 800-525-0102. Airmen requiring updates to DEERS must visit their MPF.

Defense Finance and Accounting Service is in the process of establishing a debt for Airmen who have not been charged for FSGLI because of inaccurate information and will start collecting delinquent funds soon.

MAFFS training



OVER NEW MEXICO -- A C-130H Hercules from the 302nd Airlift Wing at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., drops water during annual Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System training May 2. C-130 aircrews from the Air Force Reserve Command unit and three Air National Guard units trained with MAFFS delivery system to prepare for the 2007 wild fire season. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Rick Sforza)

Kansas Guardsman completes first online retirement

By Master Sgt. Greg Burnetta

190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

FORBES FIELD, Kansas -- A Kansas Air National Guardsman was the first Guard Airman to complete the new online Air Force retirement process, which became mandatory April 15.

Tech. Sgt. Kenneth L. Ellis, of the 190th Civil Engineer Squadron, applied for retirement using the system March 15, the day the process went live, and his retirement documents were sent to him March 30.

Sergeant Ellis said he was a little apprehensive when he first learned of the new system just two days before the process kicked off.

"The date I was planning on retiring was less than six months away so I did not think the process would work for me," he said.

According to National Guard Bureau policy, base level transactional work related to the retirement process will no longer be performed by the military personnel flight. But, any paper retirement applications initiated before April 15 will continue to be processed until it is completed or closed.

Guardsmen submitting a request for retirement are now required to follow the instructions contained in a March 9 ANG retirement processing policy handout available from commander support staffs or online at the Air Force Personnel Center Web site, which holds the total force personnel services delivery transformation tools.

For traditional Guardsmen or military technicians applying for a reserve retirement, the effective date must be no earlier than 12 months and no later than six months before the requested retirement date.

AGR Airmen applying for an active-duty retirement may apply no sooner than one year before the desired retirement date, but no later than

120 days before the effective date plus any desired terminal leave or permissive TDY. If AGRs are requesting a retirement date before their established AGR tour completion date, they must request a curtailment from their AGR tour through their servicing human resource office or remote designee.

Once the Airman fills in the online application, it will be forwarded to his or her unit commander and then to the wing commander for their recommendations. Applications submitted outside the standard application window will require a waiver approved by the wing commander or equivalent. Waivers only should be requested as a last resort in the best interest of the ANG or for hardships, officials said.

By submitting an application as outlined in the policy handout, an AGR Airman will provide the Reserve Personnel Contact Center enough time to process the application and issue retirement certificates, and publish and distribute the retirement orders.

When a Guard Airman wishes to retire, he or she will submit a request for transfer (or assignment) to the Retired Reserve online through the virtual Personnel Center – Guard and Reserve, vPC-GR. No further participation is authorized for pay or points on or after the retirement effective date.

The Air Reserve Personnel Center Web site is located at <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil>. The Guard Airman should follow the prompts for the retirement application by clicking on vPC-GR.

While it may sound complicated, Sergeant Ellis said he "liked how user friendly the process" was.

"This process is one of the only ones I have found that was this user friendly from the start," he said.

Staff Sgt. Alex Dunning, a personnel specialist for the 190th Mission Support Squadron, said once an Air-



Tech. Sgt. Kenneth L. Ellis

man creates an account, he or she may do many other things online such as obtaining copies of Department of Defense Forms 214, enlisted and officer performance reports or previously issued 20-year letters.

Airmen may check on their retirement status at any time after submission by logging onto the vPC-GR, Sergeant Dunning said.

A few common user errors noted so far include Airmen entering an incorrect e-mail address for their unit or wing commander and incorrect information for their points of contact, he said. An incorrect e-mail address will cause the application to be in a "Pending" status and delay the processing of the retirement application.

Sergeant Ellis said the new retirement process wasn't just easy to understand, it was also a timesaver.

"For me, it did not take any longer than one hour for the first part of the process," he said.

Charter members reflect on Air Guard's first 60 years

By Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – Their membership gets older and smaller every day. Nearly 60 years have passed since they formed, but time has not removed distant memories of 1946-47 after they had claimed victory in World War II and flew as Air National Guardsmen.

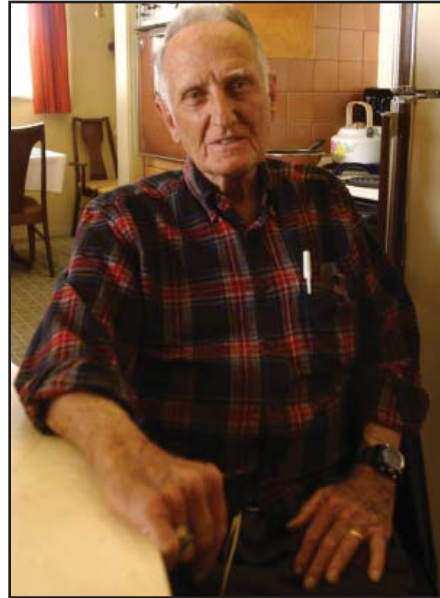
You may have met them outside your shop or at a base function: that man with the silver hair who grabbed your elbow in the hallway one Saturday afternoon to tell you about those who came before you, and how their voices filled the cockpits of retired aircraft and echoed in hangars long since torn down.

They are the Air Guard's charter Airmen, the first to serve. They will be among us when the Air Guard celebrates its 60th birthday this fall. For many, we may never know who they are, where they are or how they helped set the Air Guard on its path. Still others keep in touch with their units and share their whereabouts and experiences through alumni groups, museums, speaking engagements, interviews and, yes, hallways outside your workshop.

Retired Colorado Air Guard Tech. Sgt. Harry Emily missed his last two alumni meetings. He is 90, and he is the oldest living charter member of the Colorado Air Guard and certainly among the oldest in the entire Air Guard. He said he was disappointed about not being able to see his Guard friends, but it was just too much for him to travel. "There is nothing more important than your friends," he said.

"You're talking to a most fortunate person," Sergeant Emily said about his life as an Air Guard member, a newspaper man, a husband, a father, a grandfather and a great-grandfather. He lives in Denver with his wife, Frances.

Sergeant Emily joined the National Guard in 1938 and



Retired Tech. Sgt. Harry Emily, 90, was one of the charter members of the Colorado Air National Guard. (Photo by Spc. Jessica Stone)

was discharged after World War II. He helped train pilots, navigators and aero engineers on B-25 Mitchell bombers, and he went to school to serve in a P-38 Lightning fighter squadron. He said there were 17 members in 1946 when they reorganized the 120th Aero Observation Squadron into the 120th Tactical Fighter Squadron which flew P-51 Mustang fighters. They were the first Air Guard members in the country to be federally recognized.

They were federalized in Texas, and a photograph was taken of the entire observation squadron, he said.

During the war, many Army Air Corps units were moved or broken up, and their experienced Soldiers were scattered throughout the Army. After the war, the new Air National Guard

Airmen came from a war-expanded and reorganized Army Air Force. These veterans were already forming Air Guard squadrons in their hometowns when Congress established the Air Guard on Sept. 18, 1947.

Sergeant Emily said what defined the early Air Guard was no different than the National Guard today: the basic intent to take care of the state and to protect the nation in case of a national emergency.

Everything has gotten bigger, he said, but the individuals and the families that sacrifice time to serve their state and country remain the same.

"They are doing a wonderful job, and, God, we can't do enough to support them," he said. He and others from the original Colorado Air Guard do their best.

The group helped build a museum. Established in 1994, the Winds Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum in Denver is a place where people learn about the role of

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aviation and the Air Guard in our nation's history. The museum recorded and archived Sergeant Emily's experiences on video.

"At my age all you have left is memories," he said.

The origins of the Colorado Air Guard and Sergeant Emily's small group are similar to how other Air Guard started throughout the country. Most units existed as a handful of seasoned combat flyers and mechanics from the war. Others were the Air Guard's first recruits.

Lt. Col. Lloyd Goodrow, a public affairs officer for the Vermont Air Guard, said 27 World War II combat veterans organized the Vermont Air Guard, which was the fifth ANG unit to be federally recognized.

"The original 27 Air Guard members are now reduced to four," Colonel Goodrow said.

The unit's second wing commander, retired Brig. Gen. Richard Spear, is one of them. General Spear, who now lives in Arizona, was a pilot during World War II and started his own business when he returned home. But he left it when he heard there would be a "flying" unit in Burlington.

"We had just a big, empty field. ... There was absolutely nothing there," he said in a 2006 interview.

Colonel Goodrow said the unit leased a hanger from the city, which became home for their training aircraft: a C-47 Skytrain cargo plane and an L-5 Sentinel liaison aircraft. Maintenance was performed on the flight line. The unit provided air and sea rescue on Lake Champlain with its C-47, a five-foot

raft, and a 42-foot crash boat.

Today the Vermont Air Guard claims to be "heavily involved in homeland defense. Since 9/11, its 158th Fighter Wing has defended the nation with its F-16 Fighting Falcons. The facilities, the number of personnel, the cost of each aircraft, even the mission concept of today's 158th Fighter Wing would stagger the imagination of the unit back in 1946. It's no longer dependent on second-hand, cast-off equipment or viewed by the active military and the public as a bunch of 'weekend warriors.' The Vermont ANG and other reserve components have become a vital part of the 'Total Force' concept."

"Sixty years have passed, and so have many who proudly called themselves Vermont Air National Guardsmen," Colonel Goodrow said.

He said the days of knocking on doors of World War II veterans to invite them to sign up for the Air Guard have now been replaced by high tech multimedia marketing plans.

"The ultimate desire to serve and make a difference remains the same," Colonel Goodrow said. "These gentlemen, our original

pioneers, lit the spark that became the powerful fire that is now the Air National Guard, and our gratitude for their courage and determination will remain. Our challenge is to carry on their great legacy."

The Air Force and the Air National Guard are celebrating their 60th birthday with events from now until September. You can view a schedule of these events and news at www.af.mil/library/usaf60.asp.

